

Tyne at Blackfeet Community College

The Issksiniip Project

Tyne Bearleggings, a member of the Blackfeet Tribe, is a TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) recipient who has gotten a start on her chosen career path with the help of Blackfeet Community College's Issksiniip Project, a Health Profession Opportunity Grants (HPOG) program from the Office of Family Assistance. She is very dedicated to receiving her nursing degree, which has been a lifelong dream, and she calls her success story "a miracle."

Tyne is the mother of three beautiful children, 7-year-old Tegan, 13-year-old Trevor, and 15-year-old TeAyres. Before coming to the Issksiniip Project, she struggled with earning her GED (General Educational Development) diploma. She went to nursing school to become a State Tested Nursing Assistant (STNA) in Akron, Ohio. The difficulties of juggling home and school responsibilities were overwhelming. She had two jobs just to make ends meet. Eventually she decided to move back to Browning, Montana. She then applied for and was accepted into the HPOG program. It was determined that Tyne was still lacking her GED, a prerequisite to the nursing program she was trying to pursue.

The Issksiniip Project helped Tyne find the resources she needed to prepare for the GED test, and now she is "proud to be a GED graduate." Then the project helped her enroll in a two-year nursing degree program. A year later, she is well on her way to becoming a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN). She is thankful to the project for providing the necessary supplies for school in addition to matching her with tutors to aid in her academic success.

Tyne says, "If you are willing to dedicate yourself to what you want to become and follow through with it, then you will be successful. If I can do it, you can too. Give it a try. You have a right to be a success story too, and foremost our children deserve to look at a bright future."